



The Rogue valley boasted three "first nights" the week of August 1. When the 1957 Oregon Shakespearean festival opened at Ashland, Life magazine sent a photographer-reporter team to cover the event. That week Medford Footlighters opened the annual summer play and on the same evening of the festival opening, 29 children presented a neighborhood play in the James W. Stewart's garden on Vashti way. Pictured here during the festival first night party are Producing Director Angus Bowmer (foreground) with Nat Farbman, San Francisco (at right), Life photographer, and Bob Stein, Portland reporter who represents Life and Time in Oregon.



It is a tradition that Oregon's governor and his wife attend the first night play of the Shakespearean festival season in Ashland. Governor Robert D. Holmes and Mrs. Holmes are shown here with Mrs. John C. Cotton, Ashland, president of the festival association, who wore an Elizabethan costume for the annual "Feasting of the Tribe of Will," opening night party held in Lithia park below the festival theater. Later, Governor and Mrs. Holmes attended the first performance of "As You Like It" and then remained in Ashland for the first productions of the remaining three plays. The party and opening were attended by scores of festival fans from all parts of the state as well as numerous other state officials.

## MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1957

### Opening Night



Footlighters' summer play was "Mister Angel," comedy-fantasy by Harry Segall about "angels" who come to earth and meddle in the affairs of the mere mortals. Pictured in a scene opening night are Gary Heilsberg, Whitworth college student from Spokane, Wash., who played the title role; Margaret Dix, wife of Dr. Paul Dix, who made her Footlighter debut with the play, and Madelyn Buonocore, young daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Buonocore, whose previous dramatic experience had been confined to school programs.



Mrs. James W. Stewart, who planned, directed and made all the costumes for The Vashti way neighborhood play called "April in August," is shown here with Sharon Breedlove, Bill Blew (center) and Lonnie Walters. This was second such production planned by Mrs. Stewart, who decided the neighborhood youngsters needed something to keep them busy. Mothers of children in cast helped buy materials for costumes and furnished food for party which followed play.



Courtney Bell of Ashland donned Elizabethan costume and rode a pony in Lithia park during "Feasting of the Tribe of Will" to add a touch of color and gaiety. Posing with Courtney is Rudolf E. Vest Jr., Ashland, actor with the festival company for his third year. In addition to "As You Like It," which was the opening night play, the company is presenting "Othello," "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "Henry VIII" in repertory style.



"Dancing on the Green" was provided during the opening night party by six members of the festival company. The dancers are performing for other festival functions, and are appearing on stage for some of the plays. They are directed by Marcia Thayer, festival choreographer. Drum and bagpipe music by the Ashland Kiltie band added to the entertainment of the opening night party. W. Bernard Windt, director of music for the festival, not only has planned instrumental and vocal music for the plays, but presents a concert of Elizabethan music each Sunday afternoon during the season.



A cast of 29 children presented "April in August" as neighborhood entertainment the evening of August 1. Posing in their costumes are (left to right around the circle) Jackie King, Bill Blew, Susan Davis, Steven Grigsby, Barbara Linn Lester, Donna Glatzer, Jeanette Littlefield, Teresa Grigsby, Joanie Littlefield, Donna Smith, Judy Davis, Pamela Dunlap, Dana Dunlap, Gladys Davis, Milton Bernheisel, Nicki Sue Meshe, Jeanette Keller, Danny Davis, Bobby Glatzer, Rickey Snoor, Tammy Peterson and Marsha Dunlap. Genene Williams and Sharon Breedlove are sitting center front; grouped in front of the pool are (left to right) Marilyn Stewart, Jeanie Littlefield and Miles Stewart and in the back row, center, are Deanne Stewart, Lynn Peterson and Patty Glatzer. Mrs. Stewart made all the costumes, working about two months in her spare time.